

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicants express their appreciation to Examiner Manuel Mendez for the courtesy of an interview which was granted to applicant's representative, Sanford T. Colb (Reg. No. 26,856). The interview was held in the USPTO on December 14, 2005. The substance of the interview is set forth in the Interview Summary.

At the interview, proposed amended claims and the clarity thereof vis-à-vis the multiple embodiments described in the specification were discussed. The Interview Summary Record states, in relevant part, "It was agreed to correct the specification and focus it on the embodiment of interest. A supplemental amendment will be filed by the applicant. The Examiner will search for prior art showing a manifold having valves showing the functionality claimed by the applicant in the proposed amended claim 1."

Applicant has accordingly amended independent claim 1 as proposed at the interview to further clarify the features of the present invention. The following annotated version shows support for amended claim 1 as found in the specification as filed (claim language in bold):

1. **An anesthesia manifold, comprising a plurality of valves which are mounted onto a manifold element (Fig. 32 and page 29, lines 13-16), each of said plurality of valves having an open operative orientation (Fig. 29 and page 27, lines 21-22) and a second operative orientation which is pressure responsive for flow into said manifold element (Fig. 30 and page 28, line 10).**

Claims 2 and 5-8 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for all elements claimed therein. Claims 3-4 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant has also amended the specification as agreed upon at the interview to focus on the embodiment of interest. Figs. 1-27 have been deleted and Figs. 28-33 have been

renumbered as Figs. 1-6. Formal drawings for renumbered Figs. 1-6 and a clean version of the specification are included. No new matter has been added.

The specification has also been amended to correct typographical errors and has been edited for clarity. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, all of the claims are deemed to be allowable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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